

Exhibit No. 7Date 3-16-07Bill No. HB-177

Proponent Testimony for HB177
Before the Senate State Administration Committee
An Act Repealing the Montana Electronic Transactions
with State Agencies and Local Government Units Act

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444-2589

Mr. Chairman, members of the committee, for the record my name is Steve Bender and I am a Deputy Chief Information Officer for the State of Montana.

I rise as a proponent for HB177 in conjunction with the role I serve in state government. As a Deputy Chief Information Officer for the State of Montana, I share in the responsibility for oversight of the state's information technology assets. Montana's electronic government services initiative has been very successful and we are proud of the progress we have made in this area by working together as state agencies. To date, the state offers 101 different services online to the citizens and businesses in Montana and around the world. We have been able to offer these services in part because of the foresight and support of our legislature. We needed to have the appropriate statutes in place to enable state government to conduct electronic commerce for the benefit of Montanan's.

In 1999, the Montana Electronic Transactions with State Agencies and Local Government Units Act supported our entry into the area of eGovernment. As technology has progressed and electronic commerce has matured, certain language and terminology in this Act has become outdated.

The Uniform Electronic Transactions Act, passed in 2001, is a key statute for electronic commerce and provides us the structure we need for providing eGovernment services in the future. We support the repeal of the earlier statute, the Montana Electronic Transactions with State Agencies and Local Government Units Act.

I recommend your concurrence with HB177 and I am available to answer any questions you may have.

Thank you.